



603

July 3, 2002

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the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Titre: PROCEDE ET DISPOSITIF D'ELIMINATION DE PARTICULES  
CONTENUES DANS UN COURANT DE FLUIDE.**

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Dear Mr. Nguyen:

British Patent No. 632,360 p. 1, lines 31 to 34: "The present invention ... reduces the turbulence of the air to a minimum ...". p. 3, lines 26 to 28: "... a gas stream entering the channel substantially devoid of turbulence assumes vortex flow ...".

The above quotes show that in the British Patent:

- (i) there was practically no turbulence
- (ii) there was vortex flow in the flow channel

Therefore, the British Patent asserts that there can be vortex flow in the virtual absence of turbulence.

In the British Patent the words "vortex" and eddy" are used as synonyms. On p. 1, lines 85 to 87: "... because of outward eddies resulting from the boundary layers of the stream of air being retarded by the wool pile". On p. 4, lines 18 to 22: "... because of vortices outwardly directed from the central or main flow through the channel and possibly resulting from the boundary layers of the stream of air being retarded by the wool pile."

The words "vortex" and "eddy" are also synonymous in Roget's International Thesaurus, 4<sup>th</sup> edition 322.2.

The dictionary definitions of "vortex" and "eddy" are as follows:

Webster's Third New International Dictionary. Vol. III.

"vortex" 2: "a region within a body of fluid in which the fluid elements have an angular velocity."

Page 1 of 2

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Page 2 of 2

ibid.

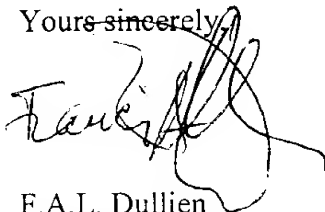
"eddy" 1: "a current of air or water running contrary to the main current; esp: one moving circularly."

The attached mathematical definition of "vortex" is from Streeter, "Fluid Mechanics", McGraw-Hill, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, pp. 74 and 419-420 (Attachments #1 and #2). It is noted that turbulence is not necessary for a "vortex". A vortex is merely rotational flow.

Photographic visualization of rotational flow (called "eddy" in this source) in the creeping flow regime, in the complete absence of turbulence, is also attached (Attachment #3) (An Album of Fluid Motion, The Parabolic Press, Stanford. Cal. 1988, p. 15). The definition of "creeping flow" attached is from Bird, Stewart, Lightfoot "Transport Phenomena", Wiley, 1960, pp. 56-57. (Attachment #4.)

Yours sincerely,

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F.A.L. Dullien  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus

FALD:dw  
Attachments (4)